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DE RUEHRO #1200 1330914
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R 130913Z MAY 83
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 2821
INFO RUEHFU/AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES 1035
RUEHLD/AMEMBASSY LONDON 7880
RUEHMN/AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO 0201
RUESNA/AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO 0533
RUFHOL/AMEMBASSY BONN 7910
RUDKEBQ/AMEMBASSY BERN 2791
RUEHMD/AMEMBASSY MADRID 6274
RUFHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 4401
RUEBTV/AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV 4314
RUEHDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 6774
RUFHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 6714
RUEOEHA/USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PN
RUCPSAA/CINCLANT NORFOLK VA
BT

ROME 11200

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PREL, SHUM, AR, IT
SUBJECT: ITALIAN MOTIVES IN CASE OF MISSING ARGENTINES

REF: BUENOS AIRES 3153

1. ~~REDACTED~~ - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. AT OUR ADMITTED REMOVE, IT SEEMS EITHER DISINGENUOUS OR EMOTIONAL FOR ARGENTINES TO ASCRIBE DOMESTIC POLITICAL MOTIVES (PARA 3 REFTEL) AS THE BASIS FOR ITALY'S STRONG REACTION TO THE REPORT ON THE "WAR AGAINST SUBVERSION."

3. PRESIDENT PERTINI, WHOSE MORAL STATURE AND PUBLIC APPEAL INDEED GIVE HIM MUCH INFLUENCE OVER SIGNIFICANT AREAS OF DOMESTIC OPINION, HAS REACTED TO THE ARGENTINE SITUATION TOTALLY CONSISTENTLY WITH HIS FORMIDABLE RECORD ON HUMAN RIGHTS. HE HAS NO POLITICAL AXE TO GRIND IN THIS MATTER AND HE INVARIABLY SPEAKS IN DRAMATIC TERMS. HIS VIEWS FALL ON RECEPTIVE EARS HERE; THE GOVERNMENT PROBABLY WOULD HAVE PREFERRED A LOWER PROFILE BUT IF IT ALSO RESPONDS TO PUBLIC SENTIMENT, THIS CAN HARDLY BE DESCRIBED AS A CYNICAL POLITICAL PLOY.

4. IN ADDITION, THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT GAINED ITALIAN SYMPATHY WITH ITS APPEALS TO STRONG ETHNIC TIES AT THE TIME OF THE "DIRTY WAR". IT SEEMED COMFORTABLE WITH ITALY'S RELUCTANCE, ON THAT BASIS, TO SUPPORT SANCTIONS AGAINST ARGENTINA AND IT DID NOT LABEL ITALY'S RELATIVE PENEVOLUTION AS A DOMESTIC TACTIC, A CHARGE WHICH MIGHT THEN HAVE BEEN JUSTIFIED IN PART.

5. IN GENERAL, THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT SEES ITSELF AS A NATURAL PARTNER OF ARGENTINA AND IT SO ATTEMPTS TO CONDUCT ITSELF. ITALY COUNTS ITS OWN AMONG THE DISAPPEARED, IT HAS TREATED THE ISSUE WITH KID GLOVES DOMESTICALLY UNTIL

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13 MAY 83
TCR: 1221
CN: 20643
CERGE: PROG

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ACTION PROJECT (S200000044)
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS
Margaret P. Gifford, Director
☒ Release ☐ Exclude ☐ Deny
Exemption(s): _____
Declassify: ☐ In Part ☒ In Full
☐ Classify as _____ ☐ Extend as _____ ☐ Downgrade to _____
Date _____ Declassify on _____ Reason _____

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NOW, AND IT IS UNLIKELY TO TEMPER ITS REACTION.

RAEB

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